

State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
Division of Forestry and Wildlife
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

July 22, 2011

Chairperson and Members
Board of Land and Natural Resources
State of Hawaii
Honolulu, Hawaii

Land Board Members:

SUBJECT: REQUEST APPROVAL FOR FINAL INTEGRATED KA'ENA POINT ACTION PLAN AS A GUIDING DOCUMENT FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF KA'ENA POINT, IMPLEMENT EMERGENCY ACTIONS AND DELEGATE AUTHORITY TO THE CHAIRPERSON TO MAKE MODIFICATIONS TO THE PLAN, AS NECESSARY, TO IMPLEMENT THE MISSION AND GOALS OF THE ACTION PLAN.

This Board Submittal requests approval of the Final Integrated Ka'ena Point Action Plan as a guiding document for the management of Ka'ena Point, implements emergency actions and delegates authority to the Chairperson to make modifications to the plan, as necessary, to implement the mission and goals of the action plan. Approval of this plan will allow the implementation of actions needed to effectively manage this important coastal area balancing conservation of the natural and cultural resources while providing access and recreational opportunities for residents and visitors. This plan will also help the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) fulfill the three goals of the Ocean Resources Management Plan (ORMP): connecting land and sea, preserving our ocean heritage, and promoting collaboration and stewardship.

BACKGROUND

In January of 2008, Laura Thielen, then Chairperson of the DLNR, tasked the DLNR Divisions to collaboratively devise strategies to better manage four focus areas throughout the State, including Ka'ena Point on O'ahu. The Division of Conservation and Resource Enforcement (DOCARE) was tasked with leading the DLNR Stewardship Group for Ka'ena Point with support from other Divisions including Land, Aquatic Resources, State Parks, Forestry and Wildlife, and Historic Preservation. On April 30, 2008, the Stewardship Group submitted a Draft Integrated Resource Stewardship – Moku Management Ka'ena Point ORMP Action Plan to the Chairperson.

At the November 18, 2008 public meeting for the Draft Ka'ena Point Action Plan, the DLNR Ka'ena Point Stewardship Group discussed the creation of an Advisory Group to encourage public involvement and facilitate discussion and recommendations related to the plan. The purpose of this group is to advise the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) on the management of Ka'ena Point through recommendations developed through communication and involvement with the public and neighboring communities and users.

On February 25, 2009, DLNR held a public workshop to select the members of the Ka'ena Point Advisory Group (KPAG). The purpose of this meeting was to identify and select representatives and alternates for three user groups at Ka'ena Point. These user groups were the fishing community, cultural practitioners, and conservationists. Several organized interest groups with representatives were already identified as potential KPAG Members. These groups included the Burial Council, Waianae Neighborhood Board, Friends of Ka'ena Point, North Shore Neighborhood Board, Office of Hawaiian Affairs, and YMCA Camp Erdman.

In April 2009, DLNR formed the KPAG. KPAG was tasked with providing recommendations to finalize the Draft Ka'ena Point Action Plan and assist with its implementation. For the past two years, KPAG has been meeting regularly to discuss the ORMP, management of Ka'ena Point State Park and recommendations to the DLNR. KPAG has also conducted several site visits to Ka'ena point to observe users, familiarize them with the area, and conduct work days to protect sand dunes with the assistance of DLNR staff. On July 27, 2010, the KPAG held a public informational during the North Shore Neighborhood Board Meeting. At this meeting, the KPAG presented their recommendations and gathered public comment using paper surveys and an electronic online survey. With this information, KPAG finalized their recommendations to DLNR.

On October 14, 2010, KPAG presented the following recommendations to the BLNR: protection of the Leina A Ka 'Uthane; protection and restoration of the sand dunes; management and prevention of erosion, especially in areas such as Manini Gulch; the designation of a road; and the creation and implementation of a permitting system for the area beyond the paved road. The DLNR Stewardship Group has incorporated all of these KPAG recommendations into the Final Integrated Ka'ena Point Action Plan.

The Ka'ena Point Stewardship Group has finalized the Action Plan and seeks to immediately implement the most pressing emergency actions necessary for managing the area:

- 1) Delineate the existing primary and shoreline access roads (Appendix 3);
- 2) Repair and maintenance of the existing primary access road (Appendix 3); and
- 3) Establish State Park vehicle access permit

Emergency actions focus on addressing immediate negative human impacts and repairing basic existing management infrastructure needs of the area. These actions fall under the environmental compliance exemption list for State Parks and DOFAW.

Road Delineation: Many of the negative impacts to natural and cultural resources at Ka'ena Point are a result of roads not being clearly delineated and therefore, vehicles accessing the park wherever drivers see fit and enforcement is difficult with out clearly delineated roads. The Stewardship Group seeks to clearly delineate the existing primary road and a subset of shoreline access roads in order to limit vehicular access and therefore reduce damage to Park resources. The Stewardship Group would implement a hybrid of the "network" and "loop" options considered by the KPAG. Final road alignment would be selected based on conditions in the field. The method of identifying the roads will be determined by the Stewardship Group once the project commences but would

likely be a combination of signs, boulders, and pilings. A map of the area identifying the delineated roads will be posted at the entrance of the unpaved portion of the State Park.

Road Repair and Maintenance: The primary access road is in such disrepair that DLNR staff and park users are often forced to drive on inappropriate routes to access the Park and Natural Area Reserve. The state of the road impedes resource management and enforcement efforts as well as public access to the area. The Stewardship Group seeks to begin maintenance and repair of the road immediately. Funds have been encumbered in a Purchase Order for this purpose.

State Park Vehicular Access Permit: Establishing a state park vehicular access permit would enable State Parks to control the number of vehicles in the state park and the areas in which they were allowed to access. It would be a venue to communicate appropriate use of the area and an avenue for DOCARE to enforce park rules. The Stewardship Group seeks to institute this permit as soon as it can be added to the online permit system. The KPAG has had significant input on the content of this permit and it is supported by all members.

Ka'ena Point has been the target of many planning efforts over the past 30 years. Plans initiated by the State include the 1978 Ka'ena Point State Park Conceptual Plan, 1997-1998 Sustainability Hotspot initiative, 1992 NARS management plan, an interdepartmental and community group planning effort lead by DLNR Deputy Director Bob Masuda in 2006-2007, and the Ka'ena Point ecosystem restoration project. The Final Integrated Ka'ena Point Action Plan builds upon these past community and DLNR planning efforts.

DISCUSSION:

Board approval of the subject plan is intended to trigger some or all of the following actions:

1. Implementation of emergency actions described in the plan including but not limited to delineation of the existing primary and shoreline access roads, repair and maintenance of existing primary access road and establishment of a State Park vehicle access permit.
2. Prioritized implementation of plan objectives by DLNR.
3. DLNR efforts to secure operational and planning funding for plan objectives.
4. Preparation of regulatory compliance documents as needed for implementation of management actions as outlined in the plan.
5. Periodic solicitation of requests for proposals or bids for implementation of plan objectives, including issuance of licenses or contracts in accordance with applicable Hawaii Administrative Rules, as necessary.
6. Issuance of permits with applicable Hawaii Administrative Rules, as necessary.

Inasmuch as the Chapter 343 environmental requirements apply to DLNR's use of the lands, DLNR shall comply with Chapter 343, HRS, as appropriate. Pursuant to HAR § 11-200-8, emergency actions proposed by the DLNR for implementation fall under approved Divisional exemption lists.


RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board approve the Final Integrated Ka'ena Point Action Plan as a guiding document for the management of Ka'ena Point, implement emergency actions, and delegate authority to the Chairperson to make modifications to the plan, as necessary, to implement the mission and goals of the action plan.

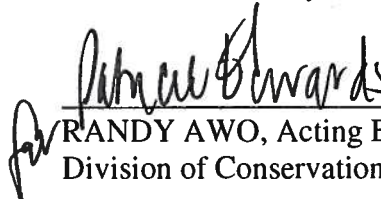
Respectfully submitted,



DAN QUINN, Administrator
Division of State Parks

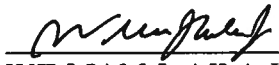


PAUL CONRY, Administrator
Division of Forestry and Wildlife



RANDY AWO, Acting Enforcement Chief
Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement

APPROVED FOR SUBMITTAL:



WILLIAM J. AILA JR., Chairperson
Board of Land and Natural Resources

Attachment 1: Integrated Ka'ena Point Final Action Plan

cc:
Ka'ena Point Advisory Group
Ka'ena Point Stewardship Group